



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/772,308	02/06/2004	Nobuhiko Noma	P24207	7414
7055 7590 10/29/2007 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191			EXAMINER YUN, EUGENE	
			ART UNIT 2618	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 10/29/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gbpatent@gbpatent.com
pto@gbpatent.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/772,308

Applicant(s)

NOMA ET AL.

Examiner

Eugene Yun

Art Unit

2618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Warke (US 6,566,889).

Referring to Claim 1, Warke teaches an ADSL modem apparatus comprising: an exchange unit that transmits and receives a REVERB signal according to one of the ITU-T standard G.992.1 and G.992.2 (see col. 5, lines 17-24); and

an estimation unit that estimates a communication distance to an opposing ADSL modem apparatus based upon a reception level of the REVERB signal (see col. 6, lines 35-40).

Referring to Claim 7, Warke teaches a communication method for an ADSL modem apparatus, comprising:

receiving a REVERB signal according to one of the ITU-T standard G.992.1 and G.992.2 (see col. 5, lines 17-24);

estimating a communication distance to an opposing ADSL modem apparatus according to a reception level of the REVERB signal (see col. 6, lines 35-40); and

concentrating signal energy into a low frequency band, the signal energy being assigned to a transmission signal based upon the estimated communication distance (see col. 4, lines 20-26).

Referring to Claim 2, Warke also teaches estimating the communication distance to the opposing ADSL modem apparatus by comparing reception levels of two carriers, the carriers being selected from a plurality of carriers that configure the REVERB signal (see col. 5, lines 47-53).

Referring to Claim 3, Warke also teaches a communication unit that communicates by concentrating signal energy into a low frequency band, the signal energy being assigned to a transmission signal according to the communication distance estimated by said estimation unit (see col. 4, lines 20-26).

Referring to Claims 4 and 8, Warke also teaches said communication unit minimizing the signal energy assigned to a high frequency band and increasing increasing the signal energy assigned to the low frequency band, when the communication distance to the opposing ADSL modem apparatus is increased (see col. 5, lines 37-47).

Referring to Claim 5, Warke also teaches the ADSL modem apparatus located at a remote side, and wherein the communication distance between the remote side ADSL modem apparatus and a center side ADSL modem apparatus is estimated (see col. 4, lines 20-26).

Referring to Claim 6, Warke also teaches the ADSL modem apparatus located at a center side, and wherein the communication distance between the center side ADSL modem apparatus and a remote side ADSL modem apparatus is estimated (see col. 4, lines 20-26).

Referring to Claim 9, Warke teaches a modem apparatus, comprising:

An exchanger that transmits a REVERB signal as part of a modem training signal (see col. 5, lines 17-24); and

An estimator that estimates a distance between an opposing modem apparatus and the modem apparatus according to a reception level of the REVERB signal (see col. 4, lines 20-26).

Referring to Claim 10, Warke also teaches said estimator estimating the distance to the opposing ADSL modem apparatus by comparing reception levels of two carriers (see col. 5, lines 47-53).

Referring to Claim 11, Warke also teaches the two carriers selected from a plurality of carriers that configure the REVERB signal (see col. 5, lines 47-53).

Response to Arguments

Art Unit: 2618


3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eugene Yun whose telephone number is (571) 272-7860. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew D. Anderson can be reached on (571)272-4177. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Eugene Yun
Examiner
Art Unit 2618

Application/Control Number: 10/772,308
Art Unit: 2618

Page 6

EY